

To: Members of the Faculty Development Committee

From: Dr. Michael P. Savage, Director of Service Learning

Subject: Research Grant Proposal for Summer 2008

Date: February 27, 2008

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to submit the following proposal for consideration of a Research Grant Proposal for the Summer of 2008. I apologize for the tardiness of my application.. However, I just received confirmation that my proposal was accepted by the WACRA Association for presentation at their 25th International Conference. I appreciate your understanding and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Mick Savage

Project Title: It's Not About Me: Developing Community-Campus Partnerships and Doing Service-learning In Underserved Communities.

Summary: To present a paper on the particular issues related to establishing community-campus service-learning partnerships between Elmhurst College and domestic and international agencies at the 25th International Conference of the World Association for Case Method Research and Application (WACRA), including Case Method Research, Application, Case Writing and Interactive Pedagogical Models (WACRA) at Napier University, Edinburgh Scotland, June 28th-July 2nd, 2008.

Abstract: The establishment of Community-Campus partnerships involves three distinct stages: identification, development of trust, and maintenance. Additionally, it is important that all members of the partnerships share mutual respect, common principles, interests and goals, and are in agreement with the delegation of roles and responsibilities. When one member of the partnership is faced with intrinsic concerns [e.g., poverty, lesser resources], the partnership is often compromised. In this presentation, the author describes the evolution of partnerships between Elmhurst College and schools in underserved and impoverished communities, highlights concerns and biases of the partnerships, and how these partnerships developed into exemplary service-learning models.

KEYWORDS: Service-learning, identification, negotiation, maintenance, competing agendas, consensus, field-based learning, poverty, resources, cultural interdependence.

Narrative: The case method can play an important role in solving problems and in teaching problem-solving, as well as initiating and managing change. The WACRA conference is an interdisciplinary multinational forum for scholars and practitioners in the academic disciplines, the professional fields, and in business and education. Participant will have opportunities to meet with colleagues from around the world with whom new research partnerships can be established. The WACRA conference provides opportunities for participants to learn more about the teaching and learning using the case method approach. Priority for selection is given to papers that are interdisciplinary, international and/or comparative. The paper that I submitted and that has been accepted uses the case method and related approaches to describe the strategies implemented by Elmhurst College to establish and maintain long-term partnerships with domestic and international agencies, schools, and programs.

Current Situation: The Service-Learning Program at Elmhurst College plays an important role in preparing students to honor their responsibilities as members of a free and democratic society, and to be committed to social justice, personal integrity, and a desire to serve others. Elmhurst College believes that one way in which students can fulfill these responsibilities is to participate in at least one service-learning experience (either domestically or internationally) as part of their undergraduate education. Consequently, the Service-Learning Program is designed to provide students with opportunities to put theory into practice in new and diverse circumstances.

Project Plan: The project to be undertaken requires that I travel to Edinburgh, Scotland in June of 2008 to present the paper that has been accepted by the WACRA Organization. The goals of the project are to highlight the Elmhurst College Service-Learning Program at an International forum. My presentation has been peer-reviewed and will be featured a component of the conference. The expected outcomes are that the Elmhurst College Service-Learning Program will be afforded recognition from professionals from diverse fields. The paper I will present will be one many papers designed to enhance understanding and collaboration between and among disciplines and international partners. It is anticipated that I will be able to initiate discussion with scholars from other academic institutions who are presently engaged in Service-Learning. The ultimate benefits to students at Elmhurst College are that through these new partnerships, they will have opportunities to travel and study with scholars and students at these international sites.

Faculty Expertise: I am currently the Director of the Service-Learning Program at Elmhurst College. I have been privileged to have had this position for six years. During that time I have made concerted efforts to provide increased opportunities for faculty and students from Elmhurst College to travel abroad to participate in international Service-Learning projects and to study at in partner institutions abroad. In response to these efforts, faculty and students from Elmhurst College have traveled to Chile, France, Thailand, South Africa and Jamaica. It is anticipated that with continued financial support from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty that these opportunities will continue to be available to faculty and students. I believe that it is important to highlight the process that we have followed to achieve these goals. As the Director of the program, my scholarship related to Service-Learning will certainly be enhanced. During my tenure, I have been fortunate to receive several modest financial grants from outside sources. These grants have enabled me to initiate broader range partnerships which have enhanced the quality and scope of the S-L Program. Describing how the S-L Program functions to be successful at a quality international forum will enhance the strength of future grant proposal submissions. The acceptance of this paper by the WACRA Association reflects a peer-reviewed recognition of this achievement and I am sure that “showcasing” our Service-Learning Program at this International Conference is an important step in continuing our move to greater faculty and student involvement in international experiences.

Plans for Evaluation and Dissemination: It is anticipated that the completed paper will be published in a future edition of the refereed International Journal of Case Study Method Research & Application-IJRCA. After returning to the college campus, the faculty member will present a report of the conference to the College Community. In addition, the faculty member will present the paper at the Fall meeting of the Illinois Campus Compact.

Budget: In as much as I will be responsible for my own travel to Scotland, should I be awarded the Research Grant, I anticipate that the funds will be allocated to assuage the costs of accommodation for the conference.

Faculty accommodation: 4 nights in Edinburgh Scotland @ \$175.00 US per night = \$700.00